

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are pending in this Application. Claims 19-21 have been canceled, Claim 18 has been amended, and new Claims 22 and 23 have been added, all without the introduction of any new matter.

Specifically, the basis for the amended portion of step (b) of Claim 18 is found in canceled Claim 19. Amended Claim 18 is supported by the specification on page 32, lines 21-27, and Figures 8 and 9.

New Claim 22 incorporates Claim 18 with Claim 20, by replacing step (b) of Claim 18 with canceled claim 20. New Claim 22 is supported by the specification on page 32, lines 27, to page 33, line 5, and Figures 10 and 14.

New Claim 23 incorporates Claim 18 with Claim 21, and which replaces step (c) of claim 18 with the canceled Claim 21. New Claim 23 is supported by the specification on page 33, lines 5-15, and Figures 11 and 14. Thus, no new matter is added.

It is first respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the references listed on the enclosed IDS, originally filed on March 8, 2001, as evidenced by enclosed date stamped filing receipt.

By way of summary, Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 19-21 include allowable subject matter.

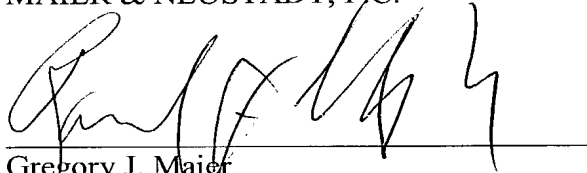
Accordingly, in view of the present amendment of Claim 18 which incorporated the subject matter of Claim 19 indicated to be allowable, and because new Claims 22 and 23 also incorporate the subject matter the Examiner indicated as allowable, no further issues are

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believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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